

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated July 3, 2008, has been reviewed and the following remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 106 and 107 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 48-50, 52-59, 68, 72, 74-76, 80, 81, 92, 99, 103 and 104 have been amended. Claims 108-116 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 48-85, 92, 95-101, 103-105 and 108-116 remain pending upon entry of the present amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claim 107.

Claim Rejections

Claims 48-50, 54-71, 77, 80-85, 92, 95-101 and 103-105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Theimer *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,649,099, "Theimer") in view of Guski *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,711,679, "Guski") and Davis *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,450, "Davis"). Claims 51 and 82 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Theimer in view of Guski, Davis and Shin *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,134, "Shin"). Claims 52, 53, 78, 79 and 102 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Theimer in view of Guski, Davis and Scott *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,260, "Scott"). Claims 72-76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Theimer in view of Guski, Davis and Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,922, "Wang"). Claim 106 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Theimer in view of Guski, Davis and Swift *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,113,994, "Swift"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Without acquiescing to the rejections, Applicants have amended claims 48, 59, 80, 92, 99 and 103 to include the features of claims 106 and 107. Accordingly, claims 48-85, 92 and 95-105 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 107.

New Claims

Claims 108-116 have been added. Support for the claims may be found throughout the Specification, *e.g.*, at pp. 6-7. Claims 108, 111 and 114 recite features similar to claims 103, 99 and 92, respectively, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 103, 99 and 92. Claims 109, 110, 112, 113, 115 and 116 are dependent claims and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, including a three month extension of time fee, to Deposit Account 19-0733. If for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3156.

Respectfully submitted,
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